



# DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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## FINANCIAL PLANNING UNDER SCRUTINY

GREENWICH, Conn. -- In the face of an unexpected deficit, the Episcopal Church Executive Council has moved to re-evaluate a ten-year autonomy plan for the Church in Puerto Rico.

The 44-member Council was told at its June 4-6 meeting at Seabury House here that Puerto Rico had ended 1979 with a \$55,801 accumulated deficit which was threatening all of its designated funds used for investment. The Church's General Convention had approved Puerto Rico's autonomy plan based on decreased funding from the General Church Program which did not include deficit funding.

Council approved a resolution calling for development of a revised ten-year projection to be completed by August by Church Center World Mission and Finance executives and a member of the committee of Province IX which exercises oversight of the Puerto Rican Church.

In explaining the resolution, the Rt. Rev. William H. Folwell, Bishop of Central Florida and chairman of the World Mission Standing Committee, told Council that the resolution "put some teeth into the covenant that the Finance Department needs if we are to do our part to support that covenant and help that diocese. We want to guard their rights, but we also want to live within the accountabilities that Convention has established."

Council needs that revised plan by August in order to complete work on the proposal for the 1981 General Church Program.

In other action from the World Mission Committee, the Council noted some strong exceptions to proposed revisions in the Constitution of the National Council of Churches of Christ but moved to assure the NCCC of its continued commitment to ecumenical planning and action.

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The proposed changes are laid out in a report from the National Council governing board entitled, "Foundations for Ecumenical Commitment."

Member denominations have been asked to respond and the Council did so by accepting a report drafted by a committee of conference which Presiding Bishop John M. Allin had named to explore the issue.

The Committee found itself unable to accept a number of proposed changes which it felt "constitute too radical a revision of the nature and purpose of the NCCC at this time. The dialogues and agreements between the families of churches have not reached the point that would be required for the kind of relationships between the churches proposed in the report."

The Committee and Council's position will be forwarded to the National Council along with a paper from the Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations of the General Convention which holds up many of the same objections.

Following acceptance of that report, Council passed a resolution asking that appropriate committees and officers implement a September, 1978 resolution calling for a dialogue between representatives of the Council and the Episcopal Church on issues of local ecumenism, collaborative planning and the role of the numerous two-way dialogues.

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